













A PIG IN THE FENCE.

Did you never observe, when a pig in the fence...  
How all of his neighbors betake themselves thence...  
To punch him or to get at him...  
May know his kind and name...  
Counting to join them in adding a scar...  
To the pig that is fast in the fence!

Atlanta an Absurd and Worthless Place

(From the Richmond Examiner.)  
Atlanta was never a strategic point, so much as a point of honor. It was once, to be sure, called the "Gate City," but that gate had long been of its hinges, and it was one of those "passages that lead to nothing." Atlanta was a sort of a place which would be called a "city" nowhere else than upon this continent; no doubt it was intended to be a city. The streets are there, chiefly shaded by "original growth." It was one of those raw and inchoate "cities" which have been advertised and gotten up by speculators in lots at various points of railroad intersection. The reader knows the "Gate City"; everybody knows the "Gate City," but to well now Atlanta was not another and little larger Weldon. The center and heart of the place was a great gloomy shed into which, at various hours of the day and night, the locomotives of four railroad companies rushed, the dreadful shrieks. As Weldon has two miserable hotels close by the railroad, so Atlanta had three, also miserable and squalid, and also near the railroad shed, but all on one side of it, whereas those of Weldon are on two opposite sides. Before the war, there was very little sign of life in the dreary place, except when trains came in or went out, everybody coming in demanding urgently when he would have an opportunity of getting away again, and nobody going, but obliged to remain two hours, eagerly hastening to a departing train, for nobody seemed to stay in Atlanta one moment longer than absolutely necessary compelled him; assuming that the Yankees are there, they will be in a hurry to evacuate. Many is the traveler who has passed from two to four miserable hours in that "Gate City," and him, looking from the hotel porch upon the city that sprawled around, seemed to be a mere collection of barrooms, billiard saloons and barber shops, with a few lottery offices. It is true that if any enterprising person, compelled to pass the dreary hours, thought of gratifying some of those grassy passions called streets, he would discover that in one or two of them were several brick stores and houses; perhaps as many as in Manchester, across the river James, but almost all the dwellings were formed. There or four little churches, or meeting houses were there, showing perhaps a small tin cupola or two, but you saw no life or motion, if you passed out of the open space containing the railroad shed. There was the heart, the lungs, the arteries of Atlanta. There sullen travelers waiting for trains were always stamping about; often looking at their watches; gnawing, in their impatience, the ends of their cigars, and uttering the words "how long will it take?" Since the war began, indeed, there has been at Atlanta some few factories and establishments, together with the course of quartermasters, commissaries, surgeons and other non-combatant appointments to the rear of an army, have gathered there a kind of floating and fugitive population; it had even become a favorite stage or halting place for refugee newspapers, and talented journals, formerly of Memphis, of Knoxville and Chattanooga, had all been for some time printed and published at Atlanta; thus giving to the place that fictitious air of importance which has imparted to it a false reputation outside of Georgia, and may be said to have completely sold the Yankees. They find themselves in triumphant possession of a rural "city" with umbrageous streets, where cows were grazed, and the cows are all gone. The government factories are stopped, and their weatherboard sheds are scarce worth burning. Some dilapidated billiard tables they may find there; some counters of lottery offices; empty demijohns of imported champagne; and that is nearly all. The good Confederate inhabitants of the place have long since retreated to safer quarters, and those citizens of the Gate City who remain to do the honors, must be prepared to entertain the Yankees and artisans about the car shops, together with the barbers, who are ready to shave impartially Trojan and Tyrian.

A Dinner Party in Norway

(From All the Year Round.)  
There were, perhaps, a hundred and fifty guests assembled when we entered. I wondered how we were all going to be accommodated.  
"I dare say you do not have these sort of dinner parties in England," said a young lady to me, whom I had met the evening before. "We always sit at such parties, and sit up to dinner." My answer was cut short by our being ushered into the dining-room.  
As I wished to do as Rome as they did at Rome, I first turned to a little side table, on which were arranged several sandwiches, "thorndjens aqvavit," and other appetizing reliefs. I won't describe the dinner; suffice it to say, it was most excellent. But I would most earnestly recommend any one going to Christiania to get a good dinner standing up before leaving home, for it requires an uncommon knack to be able to manage it properly. Take a plate, with a bit of chicken, a slice of ham, some peas and potatoes on it, for instance. Hold this in your left hand—for the chairs and side tables are monopolized by the elderly people—and cut and eat with your right.  
In the meantime, keep constantly drinking wine with imaginary guests, and get your stomach pumped gently up against you from all sides. And without doing this, do not omit to pay some attention to the study of attitudes. Assume the best posture for preserving your "gravity in a state of staidness," while as if you were on the deck of a rolling steamer, otherwise you may be inadvertently on the company. You must not feel annoyed if, just as you have succeeded in cutting up the chicken and ham in nice and proper fashion, and are relieving the fork for the jolt from behind, the direction a mouthful is taking, and sends it outside your shirt-front instead of inside.  
Neither must you be irritated at feeling that some one is putting a playful jab at you down your back. I upset a glass of wine over a young gentleman's legs (an elderly man of stout build, who lumped against me, was the cause), and I am ashamed to say I looked hard, in another direction, as if I knew nothing about the matter. Another piece of advice I would venture to suggest—especially if you dislike using dirty forks—is that you keep a tight hold of your own.  
Forks are always at a premium, and if you put yours down for one moment, you'll never see it again. I cannot suggest the modest stranger's doing anything better with his wine-glass than putting it in his pocket when not in immediate use; for I observed that one of the ladies or gentlemen present drank out of the same glass.  
After dinner, which was over about six, the gentlemen strolled into the grounds to smoke. The ladies don't object to the smell of the fragrant weed, and nearly all the clergy indulge in it. You can judge for yourself, when I inform you that in 1855, when the population consisted of 14,000, only 100 pipes were smoked in the city. The population of the city is now 20,000, and the number of pipes smoked is 1,000,000.  
One gentleman to whom I was introduced informed me that he always had a smoke the last thing at night, after he got into bed, and from some incidental remarks he made, I discovered that he was a married man, and occupied a nice apartment with his wife. Cliffs coffee and its attendant Curacao, having been duly appreciated, we returned to the house and danced till twelve o'clock. And, though the party had lasted eight hours, it had been throughout an uncommonly pleasant one, and the time passed very quickly.

There's a hotel-keeper, in Utica

There's a hotel-keeper, in Utica, New York, that only charges half price for lovers; and yet the proprietor says he makes more money out of this class of boarders than any other people about the place. "Let a youth," says he, "sit up with a yellow spencer and blue eyes on Sunday night, and he will go to heaven; but he won't get down to pork and beans again till the latter part of the week."

FOR SALE AND RENT.

Splendid River Farm for Sale.  
ONE OF THE MOST DESIRABLE FARMS in Jefferson county, known as the "River Farm," situated on the Ohio river, containing 200 acres of land, with a fine house, barn, and other improvements. For particulars, apply to J. H. GILBERT, at the office of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad.

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SALE OF THE MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE CO., OF ST. LOUIS, MO.

Capital Stock, as an original basis \$100,000  
Assets July 1st, 1864, - - - \$325,056 66  
Dividend (Declared to Policy Holders) 40 pr ct.  
The following, showing the entire amount of losses incurred and promptly paid by this company since its organization, January, 1860, gives ample evidence of the care and prudence exercised in the selection of the stock, and its assets also show its complete solvency, and that Western men and Western institutions are as fully reliable and quite as safe as those of the East or North. We leave Life Policies in all the forms to be obtained in any Company.  
LOSSES IN 6 YEARS ONLY \$31,500.  
Where is there a Company that can make a better showing?  
Dividends to policy holders declared annually on the first of January year after each year, besides an ample reserve fund for future contingencies.

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